(viii) Development of National Forestry Data Based Management System and publication of Forestry Statistics India, 2000 etc.

(ix) Production of nine documentary films on utilization of forest products and conservation of bio-genetic resources as also publication of Monographs on important forestry species, Brochures on the technologies developed by ICFRE and its Institutes for dissemination has been undertaken during the Project.

Karnataka request for commercial release of Bt cotton Seeds

1431. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government for early decision on allowing commercial release of Bt cotton seeds, in view of the fact that China, which was making preparation to enter WTO agreement, has commercially cultivated Bt cotton;

(b) whether it is fact that Department of Bio-technology has shown no reservations for Bt cotton; and

(c) if so, by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Minister for Agriculture, Karnataka, has requested the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests for according approval for release of Bt cotton by Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (MAHYCO).

The Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation set up in the Department of Bio-technology under Rule 4 of the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989,

recommended the proposal submitted by MAHYCO on Bt cotton for consideration of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), also set up under these Rules.

The GEAC, at its meeting held on 19.6.2001, observed that the data generated on large scale field trials on Bt cotton undertaken by MAHYCO could not reflect the true values because of late showing. It was decided that the trials be repeated on a larger scale under the direct supervision of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under their Advanced Varietal Trials of the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project. In addition, GEAC has accorded approval to MAHYCO for conducting field trials on farmers' fields in an area of about 100 hectares.

Employment opportunities through Education System

†1432. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the present education system would remain effective for future citizens of the country in getting employment opportunities during ensuing decade and century;

(b) whether there is a need for drastic changes in the education system; and

(c) whether the present education structure is not proving much useful to provide employment opportunities, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.